

Kimber's Custom Covert II comes from the factory with a set of Crimson Trace Lasergrips in a digital desert camouflage pattern.

KIMBER CUSTOM COVERT II

Although Kimber built its reputation by offering factory-standard pistols with custom features, the company also recognizes that there will always be a demand for pistols that exhibit greater attention to the finer details. In response, Kimber created the Custom Shop, which offers specialized products for just this type of customer. One of the Custom Shop's newer offerings, the Custom Covert II, is a full-size .45 ACP duty gun. Although it may seem counter-intuitive, it has some unique qualities and features that make it well suited for the Right-To-Carry role beyond just its obvious defensive and duty applications.

Specifically, the Custom Covert II (like the compact and mid-size Coverts) has a frame machined from a solid block of 7075-T7 aluminum that mates to the pistol's carbon-steel slide and non-ramped stainless-steel barrel. The result is a full-size pistol that weighs in at a light and easy-to-

carry empty weight of 31 ozs. It offers the combined benefits of comfortable carry and the pleasant shooting characteristics of a full-size pistol.

Visually, the two-tone Custom Covert II is quite appealing. Eschewing the conventional approach to metal finishing in which crisp edges are preferred, the Custom Covert II features a full "carry melt" treatment in which all hard edges are rounded off and blended. This is done to help reduce the chances of the pistol snagging on a holster or "printing" under clothing. It is important to note that, as is true with all Custom Shop offerings, the Custom Covert II is hand-fit and -finished.

The handling qualities of the Custom Covert II are also given proper attention, including a frontstrap with 30-line-per-inch checkering for increased purchase. The flat, checkered mainspring housing has a unique addition at its base—a lanyard loop. A high-sweep beavertail

grip safety is employed with a raised pad on its lower portion to ensure that the grip safety is fully depressed when the pistol is gripped. A Commander-style hammer mates with the pistol's beavertail grip safety.

The seven-shot magazines supplied with the pistol feature a generous plastic bumper base pad. This will likely be greatly appreciated by anyone slamming home a loaded magazine into the beveled magazine well as it will prevent the lanyard loop on the base of the mainspring housing from impacting the palm of his or her support hand.

The carbon-steel slide and all controls have a matte-black oxide finish, while the frame features a self-lubricating Desert Tan KimPro II-coated finish. The slide includes the now seemingly standard forward grasping grooves in addition to traditional grasping grooves at the rear, while the aluminum, match-grade trigger has a black finish.

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

.45 ACP CALIBER	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL PD No. C45C 185-GR. JHP	966 Avg. 13 SD	383	1.23	3.97	2.67
REMINGTON No. GS45APB 230-GR. JHP	872 Avg. 18 SD	388	0.98	1.73	1.45
WINCHESTER No. Q4170 230-GR. FMJ	776 Avg. 14 SD	308	2.21	4.03	2.93
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.35
MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 5" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 77° F. HUMIDITY: 45%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE, CONSECUTIVE FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), PD (PERSONAL DEFENSE), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).					



KIMBER CUSTOM COVERT II

MANUFACTURER: KIMBER (DEPT. AR), 1 LAWTON STREET, YONKERS, NY 10705; (800) 880-2418; WWW.KIMBERAMERICA.COM
CALIBER: .45 ACP
ACTION TYPE: RECOIL-OPERATED, CENTER-FIRE SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL
FRAME: 7075-T7 ALUMINUM
BARREL: 5"
RIFLING: SIX GROOVES, 1:16" LH TWIST
MAGAZINE: SEVEN-ROUND-CAPACITY, DETACHABLE BOX
SIGHTS: THREE-DOT TRITIUM, DRIFT-ADJUSTABLE FOR WINDAGE; CRIMSON TRACE LASERGRIP
TRIGGER PULL: 4 LBS.
OVERALL LENGTH: 8¾"
WIDTH: 1¼"
HEIGHT: 5¾"
WEIGHT: 31 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: PLASTIC CASE, MANUAL
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$1,500

The Custom Covert II features a full "carry melt" treatment (far l.) in which all hard edges are rounded. It also has a non-ambidextrous, low-profile manual safety as well as a beavertail grip safety (l.).

The Custom Covert II also has some design features that bring it more in line with a traditionalist's approach to the M1911, including a traditional recoil spring assembly instead of a full-length guide rod. As with all Kimber's M1911s, it employs an internal extractor.

The gun's non-ambidextrous low-profile thumb safety, in concert with the grip safety, offers no surprises to users familiar with the M1911's operation. Internally, it employs Kimber's Series II firing-pin block system, which is an updated Swartz-type safety actuated by depressing the grip safety.

Sighting and aiming is where the Custom Covert II really shines. Topping off the slide is a set of what Kimber terms "Tactical Wedge Tritium night sights"—a three-dot sighting system with a drift-adjustable rear unit. In addition, the pistol has Crimson Trace Lasergrips embossed with the Kimber logo. Complementing the tan frame of the pistol, the Lasergrips have an exclusive digital


desert camouflage pattern on the bulk of their surface area with a smaller portion of a wraparound panel in black.

This wraparound section, located at the upper portion of the frontstrap and just below the trigger guard, features the unit's activation switch that is engaged by simply squeezing in with the firing hand's support fingers. A master on/off switch is on the lower rear section of the left grip panel. The actual laser unit is in a raised housing at the upper portion of the right grip panel.

For accuracy testing, we fired the pistol with three types of ammunition, ranging from basic "hardball" full-metal jacket loadings to high-performance jacketed hollow-point ammunition. The Custom Covert II experienced three failure-to-feed malfunctions in the first 50 rounds of more than 400 rounds of test ammunition fired. However, there were no malfunctions for the rest of the testing process. It would seem reasonable to attribute the initial

malfunctions to the tightly fitted nature of this custom pistol and that it "broke in" soon thereafter.

Accuracy was quite good, no doubt due to its match-grade barrel and bushing system. The pistol showed a preference for the Remington Golden Saber 230-gr. ammunition in particular. Despite the lightweight frame, recoil was reasonably mild and manageable. The laser unit was quite helpful during some fast-fire drills, and the tritium three-dot sights were effective and easy to pick up. We also carried it in a Milt Sparks Summer Special II inside-the-waistband holster (www.miltsparks.com) for several days. The pistol's lightweight aluminum frame was greatly appreciated and made it quite pleasant to carry.

Although by no means inexpensive, the Kimber Custom Covert II offers an outstanding pistol for those looking for a full-featured duty gun or a top-notch concealed carry pistol. 



BENJAMIN DISCOVERY .22 AIR RIFLE

Popular in Europe but relatively uncommon in the United States, the pre-charged-pneumatic (or PCP) rifle has been given a boost in this country through the introduction of the new Benjamin Discovery. Pre-charged-pneumatic rifles, based on a system of operation that dates back to the 16th century, offer advantages over other more-common types of air rifles. As compared to spring-piston powered air rifles, which must be cocked for each shot, PCP rifles provide a string of shots powered by a charged air reservoir (either from a hand pump or a high-pressure air tank).

There are potential disadvantages to PCP rifles that have kept them primarily in the hands of motivated enthusiasts and out of those of beginners and younger shooters. First, they are significantly more expensive than comparable spring-powered air rifles. In addition to cost, PCP air rifles can require the strength of an adult to fully charge them through the use of a hand pump. The other

option is using a high-pressure air tank, which can be difficult to locate or expensive to use.

The new Benjamin Discovery PCP pellet rifle, however, aims to change that. Available in either .177 or .22 caliber and made here in the United States by Crosman, the bolt-action single-shot Discovery sells for roughly one-third less than a comparable European PCP rifle. But the reasonable cost is not the only reason beginners and young shooters may want to consider the Discovery.

Whereas most conventional PCP rifles require 3,000 p.s.i. of pressure to perform effectively, the Benjamin Discovery requires only 2,000 p.s.i. to power a .177-cal. pellet up to a claimed 1000 f.p.s. and a .22-cal. pellet up to 900 f.p.s. The result is that the Discovery can be charged through the use of the optional hand pump. Roughly 70 to 100 manageable strokes yield 25 to 35 powerful shots before recharging is required. In addition, high-pressure air tanks can also be used with the Discovery.

The Discovery offers another

innovative take on the PCP design, namely something referred to as “dual fuel” capability. In addition to being powered by compressed air through the use of either a hand pump or a high-pressure air tank, the Benjamin Discovery can also be powered with CO². Employing an optional adapter, the Discovery can be powered up from a standard paintball tank, although only up to 900 p.s.i. While velocities are reduced, it can shoot for roughly 100 shots before needing a refill. This is due to the unique nature of CO² and that it continues to expand as it turns from a liquid to a gas. Compressed air and CO² should not be combined, and a degasser tool to empty the Discovery’s reservoir is also available.

The rifle can be purchased by itself, but our sample Discovery was packed as a kit with a hand pump and was chambered for .22-cal. pellets. While affordable by PCP rifle standards, the \$379 price for this kit is still a substantial amount of money for many purchasers, so a certain level of quality is to be expected in this

SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YDS.)

.22-CAL. PELLET	VEL. @ 10' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BEEMAN KODIAK 21.1-GR. RN	716 AVG. 32 SD	24	1.23	1.78	1.48
CROSMAN BHP22 14.3-GR.	843 AVG. 26 SD	23	0.93	1.49	1.08
CROSMAN 14.3-GR. DOMED FTP	831 AVG. 19 SD	22	1.22	1.66	1.39
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.32
MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 24" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 74° F. HUMIDITY: 55%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG REST. ABBREVIATIONS: BHP (BENJAMIN HOLLOW POINT), FTP (FIELD TARGET PELLET), RN (ROUND NOSE), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).					



product—and the wood-and-steel Discovery did not disappoint.

The rifle is extremely light and handy, weighing in at 5 lbs., 2 ozs. It sports a one-piece stock of American walnut with a satin finish and no checkering. The wood-to-metal fit overall was good, with only a few uneven gaps around the trigger guard. Inlaid into the bottom of the stock just forward of the trigger guard is a pressure gauge for the air reservoir, with markings for both compressed air and CO² usage.

The steel barrel and breech are of carbon steel with an evenly applied and attractive blue finish that is matched on the high-pressure air reservoir under the barrel. While the bolt is stainless steel, the trigger guard and non-adjustable trigger are both of plastic. A simple crossbolt safety

is located in the rear portion of the trigger guard.

Topping off the barrel is a set of Williams FireSights that feature fiber-optic inserts for greater visibility. The rear sight sports a U-shaped red insert while the front sight has a green rod insert, resulting in a high-visibility three-dot sighting system. The rear sight unit is fully adjustable. In addition, the receiver has an 11 mm scope rail.

To operate the rifle, ensuring that it is on safe and the bolt-action is uncocked. Remove the plastic cap at the end of the air reservoir under the barrel to expose the fill nipple, and then attach the included hand pump's hose. After ensuring the bleed valve on the pump is fully closed, use the pump to pressurize the reservoir to 2,000 p.s.i. If the Discovery is

BENJAMIN DISCOVERY .22

MANUFACTURER: CROSMAN CORP.
DISTRIBUTOR: PYRAMYD AIR (DEPT. AR),
 26800 FARGO AVE., UNIT NO. L,
 BEDFORD HEIGHTS, OH 44146;
 (888) 262-4867;
 WWW.PYRAMYDAIR.COM
CALIBER: .177, .22 (TESTED)
ACTION TYPE: PRE-CHARGED PNEUMATIC,
 BOLT-ACTION SINGLE-SHOT AIR RIFLE
RECEIVER: BLUED STEEL
BARREL: 24", BLUE
RIFLING: 10-GROOVE, 1:16" RH TWIST
SIGHTS: WILLIAMS FIRE SIGHTS THREE-DOT
 FIBER-OPTIC, FULLY ADJUSTABLE
TRIGGER PULL: SINGLE STAGE, 4 LBS., 8 OZS.
STOCK: AMERICAN WALNUT;
 LENGTH OF PULL 14": DROP AT HEEL, 1";
 DROP AT COMB, 1½"
OVERALL LENGTH: 39"
WEIGHT: 5 LBS., 2 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, PUMP
PRICE: \$379 (AS TESTED),
 \$239 FOR RIFLE ONLY

Just forward of the trigger-guard on the stock's bottom is a pressure gauge (far l.) for the Discovery's air reservoir marked for both compressed air and CO² use. The reservoir is filled through a nipple that is located just below the barrel's muzzle (l.) and is protected by a plastic cap.

accidentally overfilled past 2,000 p.s.i., the shooter should dry fire the rifle in a safe direction until pressure drops to 2,000 p.s.i. To load, the bolt is opened and retracted fully until two clicks are heard, and then a pellet placed nose first into the breech. The bolt can be then closed gently and locked down.

For testing, we tried the Discovery with a selection of .22-cal. pellets from Crosman and Beeman. It proved easy to pump up to proper pressure with the included hand pump, and it performed well with no malfunctions. To wring out the best possible accuracy, we kept shot strings to 25 total before recharging the air reservoir. The FireSights provided a good sight picture that allowed us to get quite good groups at 50 yds.

The Benjamin Discovery 22 appears to have it all—ease of use, reasonable cost and high quality. For beginners who want to get into PCP rifles or for shooters who simply appreciate a quality product, the Benjamin Discovery is worth a look. ★

The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight-adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.